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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***Statement on the New York City Rent Guidelines Board Voting to Increase Rents
on Vulnerable Tenants in Rent-Stabilized Dwellings***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society released the following statement on the New York City Rent Guidelines Board's (RGB) preliminary vote to increase rents for residents in rent-stabilized dwellings:

“The Board’s preliminary vote tonight to raise rents for an already burdened population of stabilized tenants disregards the reality that working-class New Yorkers are facing widespread financial hardship — hardship that will only deepen with these unnecessary rent increases.

“According to the Board’s own reports, landlords are already reaping [historic profits](#), while tenants are [struggling](#) just to make ends meet. There is no justification for a vote that further enriches landlords at the direct expense of the households the Board purports to advocate on behalf of.

“Make no mistake: this rent increase has the potential to drive a surge in evictions and displacement across all five boroughs, forcing New Yorkers from their homes and communities onto the streets or into the City’s already overburdened shelter system.

“The Board should be especially mindful of the looming federal disinvestment in housing assistance programs — a threat that will only heighten the need to keep stabilized rents affordable and to protect tenants from further economic insecurity.

“Despite tonight’s disappointing outcome, the Board still has the opportunity to right this wrong by voting for an outright rent freeze come the final vote in June. We urge the Board to recognize that anything less will have devastating consequences for the more than two million rent-stabilized tenants across the city.”

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For nearly 150 years, we have protected, defended, and

advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>